

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY 25X1 REPORT NO. [] 25X1

INTELLOFAX 21

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

CONFIDENTIAL

DATE DISTR. 2 OCT 50

SUBJECT Techna National Enterprise in Slovakia

NO. OF PAGES 3

PLACE ACQUIRED

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NO. OF ENCLS. (LISTED BELOW)

25X1

DATE OF INFO.

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1. Unlike the situation in Moravia and Bohemia, where individual research projects are conducted personally by most of the larger factories, Techna at Nove Mesto nad Vahom (P49/T36) is the sole industrial research organization for Slovakia.* This development enterprise, which employs 200 people, was formerly subordinate to the entire Slovak iron industry, including the heavy machinery administration, directed by Ing. Kremarik, but is now under the area management of the light iron industry, directed by Ing. Chrapo. In 1948 the manager of Techna was Ing. Albin Cink who, with about 30 designers, had been transferred to the Slovak iron industry from the weapons and small ammunition factory at Vsetin (P50/O43). In 1949 he was replaced by the Slovak Communist, Dr. Krizko.
2. This plant was highly necessary in Slovakia after the war as none of the plants, not even the largest, had any designing or development sections of its own. However, Techna is faced with far more work than it can handle, causing considerable delay in many projects. This bottleneck, which has become an even more serious problem since 1948 because of Communist political interference, is a significant weakness not only of Slovak industry, but of the entire Czechoslovakian industry. Improvement of this condition is unlikely, both because of the shortage of competent research technicians and because of Communist political influences which will probably affect even Techna. It may be expected that Czech industrial history will soon be a repetition of Soviet history from 1917 to 1935, and that actual development and research will degenerate into dialectics.
3. Techna has a large, well-equipped designing office employing 50 people. The plant buildings, which are one-story, flat roofed structures lacking skylights, were erected before the war as a small electrical equipment factory, which was adapted for the use of Techna. The remodeling was completed 28 October 1948. Four modern two-story buildings were erected near the plant between 1946 and 1948 as living quarters for the research experts and skilled technicians.

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 Class. Changed To: TS S (C) 25X1
 Date: 20 JUN 1978

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Auth: HR 70-2

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4. Techna is equipped with all the necessary machinery required for the production of prototypes. There are on hand such machines as a hydraulic spatial copying machine (hydraulicke prostorove kopirovani), Swiss SIP hydro-matic precision coordinat drills and machines to produce gear wheels. The plant is not, however, well equipped with the variety of measuring instruments that should be at the disposal of its engineers, including instruments which can measure linear dimensions, electricity, and heat.
5. Although most Techna technicians have had long experience in weapons designing, Techna is not commissioned to do military development work as it is asserted that the plant is in a bad strategical location. In addition, most of the factory employees are considered reactionaries, even though they may attempt to protect themselves by joining the Communist Party. Techna, therefore, has no military importance at present.
6. Techna's development activities, which are purely of a peacetime nature, have produced the following projects:
 - a. Manet motorcycle, designed by the Engineers Uhan and Sklonar. Both Techna and the factory at Povazska Bystrica produced the model; the machine is now built by Povazska Bystrica.
 - b. Production of brass and copper thermostat controls (vlnovec).
 - c. Drafting and designing equipment.
 - d. Machines for the first three operations in the production of light bulbs.
 - e. A machine for bending sheet metal for Omnia. This machine was delivered to Omnia in 1947; it is now at the Kubra plant.
 - f. A nutcracker.
 - g. Construction of hydrometers for the Stara Tura (Pl49/T26) fine mechanics enterprise and equipment for production of hydrometers of this type.
 - h. A camera for both photographing and projecting microfilm, called Artofot.
 - i. A moving picture camera swivel tripod.
 - j. An automobile ashtray.
 - k. A machine for shaping canteen flasks.
 - l. Dent and straight dental instruments and attachments.
7. The following are development projects which have been initiated, but are as yet either unfinished or unperfected, and which are therefore not available for production:
 - a. Thermostatically controlled kitchen gas ranges based on the principle common in American stoves.
 - b. Electric kitchen ranges copied from US models.
 - c. Thermostats for industrial furnaces and other industrial uses.
 - d. Automatic cash registers.
 - e. Moving picture cameras.
 - f. Three-color still photography based on the three-filter, simultaneous image principle, the three filtered negatives of which are superimposed in printing, producing a color print superior to that produced by the conventional method.**

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- g. Etching of scales on logarithmic rulers.
 - h. Polishing machines for optical lenses.
 - i. Bottle capping machines.
 - j. Electrolytic metal polishing.
 - k. Small mangle.
 - l. Industrial fruit presses.
 - m. Kitchen hand utensils for the kitchen utensil factory at Pilakovo (049/D20).
 - n. Moving picture electronic amplifier (elektronicke sesilovace zvuku).
 - o. Machine for grinding pens according to a spatial pattern.
 - p. Radiators for the factory at Tmava (P49/T22)
 - q. Machine for processing rough lumber by using steam (pareni dreva) to remove bark.
 - r. Drafting tables (rysovaci stoly).
8. A complete laboratory for the production of cold light research (vacuum mercury lamps), headed by Ing. Haensgen, a skilled technician and former anti-Nazi German, has been established. It is the only laboratory of its kind in Czechoslovakia. Mercury lamps fulfilling the requirements of durability and small electricity consumption have already been produced on a small scale.
9. In addition to the production of prototypes, Techna is also manufacturing drafting compasses and Isis drafting tables, industrial vises (upinace), hand calibrators, and a variety of other instruments for various enterprises. Among the more interesting is the development of a new method of drilling industrial diamond dies (pruvlaky) used on wire-drawing machines (dratotahy).*** This method cuts the time necessary for this operation from 36 hours to 2 1/2 minutes.

25X1 * Comment: The Skoda Works has research institutes in its plants in Pízen, Smičov and Brno, as has the Zbrojovka armament factory in its Brno and Vsetín plants.

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25X1 *** Comment: It is believed that meant to say grinding rather than drilling, and this machine may be identical with that in Paragraph 7 o.

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